

EAST MUSQUASH LAKE

Topsfield, Washington Co. U.S.G.S. Farrow Mountain, Me (7½)

Fishes

Landlocked salmon Lake trout Brook trout Rainbow smelt Smallmouth bass White perch

Yellow perch

Chain pickerel

Minnows Fallfish

Blacknose dace White sucker

Hornpout (bullhead) Burbot (cusk)

Pumpkinseed sunfish

American eel

Physical Characteristics

Area - 806 acres Temperatures:

Surface - 69°F Maximum depth - 62 feet 60 feet - 50°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, lake trout, smallmouth bass

East Musquash is a very picturesque lake. Route 6 in Topsfield follows the south shore. There are several camps along that shore as well as a DOT rest area. The rest of the lake is undeveloped and surrounded by a mixed forest. The shoreline is rocky except for a couple gravel beaches on the south shore.

The lake has an oxygen deficiency in the deeper water. Despite this a good fishery exists for landlocked salmon, lake trout and smallmouth bass. A water storage dam at the outlet was removed in 1969. In 1970 boulders and gravel fill were bulldozed into the outlet at the former dam sight, thereby creating a gently sloping streambed easily negotiable by fish. Unhindered migration of salmon is essential as the outlet contains a substantial amount of excellent spawning and nursery habitat. Of the several brooks emptying into the lake only one Flood brook is suitable for salmon and trout spawn. This brook is also utilized to a significant extent by smelts on their annual spawning runs.

East Musquash Lake provides a good fishery for landlocked salmon, lake trout, and smallmouth bass.

The lake trout and smallmouth bass have self-sustaining populations. However, due to competition of the various warm water species landlocked salmon are stocked to supplement the naturally produced salmon.

Boat access is public at the DOT rest area on Route 6 in Topsfield. It has a gravel launch and is two wheel drive accessible.

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